

PAGE 01  
ACTION EUR-12

MADRID 03283 131739Z

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-16 C1AE-00 IO-14 NSCE-00  
NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-09 INRE-00 SP-02 /063 W  
-----226470 131746Z /51

O 131727Z MAR 81  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2553  
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO  
RUFLESA/16THAF TORREJON SP  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
AMCONSUL BARCELONA POUCH  
AMCONSUL BILBAO POUCH  
AMCONSUL SEVILLE POUCH

UNCLASSIFIED (E19) (R)  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/TPS/CR/IR/CS & DMS: 9/17/97  
☒ RELEASE ☒ DECLASSIFY  
☒ EXCISE ☒ DECLASSIFY EO Citations  
☐ DENY IN PART 950434Z  
FOIA Exemptions ( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C Sec. TS authority to  
PA Exemptions ( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C

MADRID 03283

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USICA FOR EU

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/13/87 (KAUFMANN, JUDITH R.) OR-P  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTING ON US REACTIONS TO COUP NOW  
INCLUDE ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR

REF: SMITH-KAUFMANN TELECON, MARCH 13, 1981

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE ATTACKS ON THE US FOR ALLEGEDLY  
NOT SUPPORTING SPANISH DEMOCRACY HAVE HIT NEW  
HEIGHTS (OR LOWS) WITH THE ACCUSATION THAT AMBASSADOR  
TODMAN AND US FORCES AT TORREJON WERE AWARE OF THE

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COUP BEFORE IT HAPPENED. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF  
PORTION OF JOSE LUIS GUTIERREZ' COLUMN IN "DIARIO 16"  
OF MARCH 13 WHICH REFERS TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN.

3. (U) BEGIN TEXT: AND TODMAN? I STILL REMEMBER A  
WITTY AND INGENIOUS HEADLINE IN THE MAGAZINE  
"CAMBIO 16" WHEN TODMAN WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO  
SPAIN. "TENEMOS LA NEGRA" (NOTE: A SPANISH EXPRESSION  
WHICH MEANS TO HAVE A RUN OF BAD LUCK) WAS THE  
CLEVER (AGUDO) TITLE, ALLUDING TO THE SHADOWY LATIN  
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY OF THE GENTLEMAN OF COLOR.

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FRIEND OF DICTATORS. WELL, SOME ILLITERATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE--POSSIBLY COUNSELED BY TODMAN-- INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY ON WORDS, COULD ONLY ACCUSE US OF BEING "RACIST." BUT THE FACT IS THAT TODMAN KNEW ABOUT THE GOLPE SEVERAL HOURS AHEAD OF TIME. JUST AS THEY KNEW AT THE AMERICAN BASE AT TORREJON DE ARDOZ, WHERE THE US FORCES REMAINED, STARTING LONG BEFORE, IN A STATE OF ALERT. THEN WOULD COME THE SINISTER DECLARATION OF HAIG--ALTHOUGH IT MUST BE SAID THAT IT IS THE USUAL CONDUCT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO PROCEED THAT WAY IN THE FIRST HOURS OF ALL GOLPES--TALKING ABOUT "AN INTERNAL AFFAIR" OF SPAIN. END TEXT.

4. (C) TO THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ADDED THAT WE UNDERSTAND FROM A LOCAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT THAT THE RUMOR HAS BEGUN CIRCULATING THAT GENERAL ARMADA HAS SAID THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN WAS AWARE OF AND THAT THE US APPROVED OF HIS (ARMADA'S) COUP SCHEME "IN A GENERAL WAY." IN THIS VERSION, THE AMBASSADOR

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WAS NOT SAID TO BE SPECIFICALLY AWARE OF THE FEBRUARY 23 EVENTS, WHICH ARE SEPARATE FROM THE PLOT THAT ARMADA WAS ALLEGEDLY HATCHING. THE SOURCE OF THE RUMOR IS SAID TO BE A PROMINENT SOCIALIST DEPUTY WHICH MIGHT EXPLAIN SOME OF THE PSOE VEHEMENCE ON THIS SUBJECT.  
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